

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 18, with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 5 is a diagram showing the overall configuration of a liquid crystal panel 100 of the first embodiment of the present invention. As shown, the liquid crystal panel of the first embodiment is a TFT LCD. A plurality of color filters 124 (only one shown in Fig. 5) are formed on the glass substrate 102. Each color filter 124 has at least a depression 124a formed therein. A common electrode 112 is formed on the color filters 124 having the depression 124a. The common electrode 112 has a plurality of depressions 112a corresponding to the depressions 124a of the color filters 124 and has a surface 112c facing to an opposite glass substrate 104. It is noted that the depressions 112a of the common electrode 112 are filled by a dielectric material. The opposite glass substrate 104 is provided with a plurality of scan bus lines (not shown) formed parallel to one another, a plurality of data bus lines (not shown) formed parallel to one another vertically to the scan bus lines, and TFTs (not shown) and pixel electrodes 113 formed like a matrix at intersections between the scan bus lines and data bus lines. The pixel electrode 113 may be further provided with protrusions 120 or electrode slits (not shown in Fig. 5). The surfaces of the substrates are processed for vertical alignment. A negative liquid crystal is sealed in between the two substrates. The glass substrate 102 is referred to as a color filter (CF) substrate because color filters are formed, while the glass substrate 104 is referred to as a TFT substrate. Spacers 130 are formed between the substrates 102, 104 for defining the gap between the substrates. Preferably, the dielectric material filling the depressions 112a has a dielectric constant smaller than the dielectric constant of the negative liquid crystal. In the first embodiment shown in Fig. 5, after filling the depressions 112a with the dielectric material, a substantially flat surface 123 level is formed and level with the surface 112c of the ~~CF-substrate 102~~ common electrode 112. In this embodiment, the dielectric material may be the same as the material of the spacers 130.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 19, with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 6 is a diagram showing the overall configuration of a liquid crystal panel 200 of the second embodiment of the present invention. The liquid crystal panel 200 is substantially identical to the liquid crystal panel 100 of Fig. 5 with exception that the depressions 112a of the common electrode 112 are filled by the dielectric material thereby forming protrusions 112b ~~corresponding to~~ over the depressions 112a. For liquid crystal molecules near the protrusions 112b, the orientation is divided in such a fashion that the liquid crystal molecules are tilted in the opposite direction at the protrusions 112b with no voltage applied (see Fig.6). That is exactly the same situation when an intermediate voltage is applied. Therefore, for liquid crystal molecules near the filled depressions 112a, the tilt direction of the liquid crystal molecules under electric field matches the directions in which the liquid crystal molecules are pre-tilted because of the protrusions 112b. This further improves the response (switching) speed.